Dec 10th 1836

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 1836.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to send you herewith, and to beg you to exhibit to the President, the first specimens of our coinage of silver by steam, executed this afternoon. The milling, as well as the striking, has been done by the new machinery, and the steam-power; and the saving of labor, and the acceleration of our work, will be very great. Heretofore we have used two screw-presses for coining half dollars, — one of them only occasionally. The smaller of these presses required three men to work it, the larger, four. The steam press, with a single hand

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to find in the planchets, will do more work than three hundred pieces with seven hands. — You will observe, too, that the work is better done. The old coin was struck in what we term an open collar; this is struck in a close collar, which makes the edge of the piece thicker, and gives a mathematical equality to the diameter.

I think, also, that you will not fail to see a considerable improvement in the impressions themselves. We do not, indeed, consider this as a new coin, such as the dollar will be; yet both the face and the reverse have been altered in many particulars, as you will see by a comparison with the old half dollar. These alterations, including a change in the diameter of the piece, are such as were introduced in the quarter-

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dollar, and have met the approbation of the government.

I shall, in a short time, send you some impressions of the new dollar. We are busily engaged in making a press suitable for coining it.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

P.S.— You will please to keep the coins, and send me a note or check for $5.

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Mint of the United States
Philadelphia
November 8, 1836

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir:
I have the pleasure to send you herewith, and beg you to exhibit to the President, the first specimens of our coinage of silver by steam, executed this afternoon. The milling, as well as the striking, has been done by the new machinery, and the steam-power; and the saving of labor, and the acceleration of our work, will be very great. Heretofore we have used two screw-presses for coining half dollars – one of them only occasionally. The smaller of these presses required three men to work it, the larger, four. The steam press, with a single hand to feed in the planchets, will do more work that these two presses with seven hands. You will observe, too, that the work is better done. The old coin was struck in what we term an open collar; this is struck in a close collar; that makes the edge of the pieces thicker, and gives a mathematical equality to their diameter.

I think, also, that you will not fail to see a considerable improvement in the impressions therefore. We do not, indeed, consider this as a new coin, such as the dollar will be; yet both the face and the reverse have been altered in many particulars, as you will see by a comparison with the old half dollar. These alterations, including a change in the diameter of the piece, are such as we introduced in the quarter-dollar, and have met the approbation of the government.

I shall, in a short time, send you some impressions of the new dollar. We are actively engaged in making a press suitable for the coinage of it.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson, Director

PS: You will please to keep the coins, and send me a note or check for $5.

[MSS annotation: Have receipt of check for $5 on Girard Bank Philadelphia.]

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